

# THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING



**Flying Fans** Kathy and Krystan Koscielniak watch the airplanes at the Easterwood Airport Monday. They were waiting for their grandparents to arrive from Cleburne.

► **Campus**

**A&M student died in auto accident**

A Texas A&M student was killed and three others were injured in a car accident early Sunday morning, about 1 mile east of Snook on FM 60.

Ryan William Alspaugh, a 21-year-old senior finance major from Fort Worth, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A&M students Kendra Michelle Carter, Reagan Robinson, and College Station resident Thomas Murphy East were taken to St. Joseph Regional Hospital in Bryan. They were treated for minor injuries.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said East, the driver of the 1997 Chevrolet Blazer, overcorrected on a turn, causing the vehicle to roll several times before coming to a rest in the upright position.

Alspaugh and Carter were not wearing seat belts and were thrown from the Blazer when it flipped. East and Robinson were wearing their seat belts.

Alspaugh will be honored at the Silver Taps ceremony Feb. 4, 1997.

► **State**

**Drought inhibits holiday tree sales**

DALLAS (AP) — Otto Schroeder closed the doors at his choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm early this year when all he had left were drought-stunted 4 1/2- to 5-foot-tall trees.

"We have to save these trees for next year in hopes that we'll have the (tall) trees we're looking for," he said, explaining that 7 feet is the usual top height for his Virginia pines, dotting 20 acres southwest of Dallas.

While a sizable crop of trees planted several years before the drought is available this year, many, like Schroeder's, are shorter than expected, said Lanny Dreesen, a forester with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Conroe.

And officials say the drought could cause more dire effects three to five years down the road, when the seedlings that were planted in January should be ready for harvest.

The Texas Department of Agriculture provides a list of Christmas

tree farms in Texas on its Web site under "Totally Texas days." The department's Internet address is <http://www.ag.state.tx.us>

**TTI says LA remains tops in traffic jams**

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Los Angeles remains at the top when it comes to traffic jams.

For the eighth year in a row, Los Angeles is tops in gridlock nationwide, according to an annual survey by the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University.

The latest study, based on data gathered in 1995, ranks Houston with the worst traffic in Texas, showing a 5 percent decrease in congestion from 1987.

In Texas, Houston ranked the worst at 1.13, followed by Dallas and Austin and Fort Worth (0.95).

The survey is based on a metric dubbed the Roadway Congestion Index by engineers at the institute. The index is based on the number of miles of travel per lane-mile freeway and principal streets.

The research aims to identify transportation trends and needs.

► **This day in history**

(AP) — Today is Tuesday, Dec. 10, the 345th day of 1996. There are 21 days left in the year.

On this date: In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state.

In 1869, women were granted the right to vote in the Wyoming Territory.

In 1898, a treaty was signed in Paris officially ending the Spanish-American War.

In 1931, Jane Addams became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the first American woman so honored.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was presented the Nobel Peace Prize, the first black American to receive the award.

In 1958, the first domestic passenger jet flight took place in the United States as a National Airlines Boeing 707 flew 111 passengers from New York to Miami in

about 2 1/2 hours.

In 1994, advertising executive Thomas Mosser of North Caldwell, N.J., was killed by a mail bomb later blamed on the "Unabomber."

Ten years ago: Human rights advocate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, saying the honor belonged to all Nazi death camp survivors and their children.

► **Today's Birthdays**

One year ago: The first group of U.S. Marines arrived in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo to join NATO soldiers sent to enforce peace in former Yugoslavia.

Actor Harold Gould is 73. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 49. Country singer Johnny Rodriguez is 45. Actress Nia Peeples is 35. Rock musician Scot Alexander (Dishwalla) is 25. Actress Raven-Symone is 11.

► **Weather**

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High: 77°F Tonight's Expected Low: 62°F Tomorrow's Expected High: 74°F Tomorrow Night's Expected Low: 60°

Information courtesy of TAMU

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2. has free coffee and hot chocolate
3. has lots of room to spread out books
4. is not my room

**PERFECTION IS HERE.**

MSC Forsyth Center Galleries  
(across the hallway from the AggieLand Post Office)

Special Study Hours for Fall '96:

Thursday, December 12 8pm until midnight  
Sunday, December 15 6pm until midnight  
Tuesday, December 17 8pm until midnight

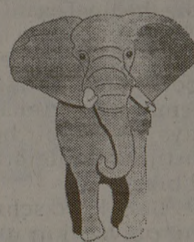
**FREE ADMISSION**

Students are always welcome to come in and study, wander or look at art!

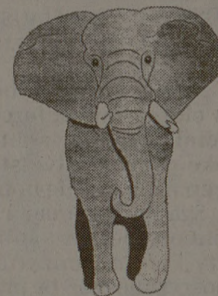
Regular Hours: Mon-Fri 9am - 8pm; Sat-Sun noon - 6pm.  
Please call 845-9251 for more information.

**Elephant Walk has come and gone, but the memories will last forever!**

Purchase your E-Walk Party Pics  
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Class of 1997

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